

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

---

TOGETHER WITH THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

J. P. HUMPHERY, F.S.I.A.

---

1930.

---

REDHILL :

S. C. JENNINGS AND SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.



## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
Abatement of Nuisances, &c. ....	59
Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in force ....	14
Ambulance facilities ....	16
Bacteriological Examination of Milk ....	28, 56
Bakehouses ....	54
Clinics and Treatment Centres ....	16
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act ....	56
Disinfection ....	41, 49
Factories and Workshops ....	20, 56
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act ....	31, 53
Food Supply ....	28, 52
Gut Scraping ....	55
Health Education ....	20
Hospital Accommodation ....	15
Housing ....	22, 60
Infectious Disease ....	32, 49
Knacker's Yard ....	55
Laboratory Facilities ....	14
Legal Proceedings ....	62
Maternity and Child Welfare ...	42
Meat ....	31, 51
Merchandise Marks Act ....	53
Midwives ....	14
Milk (Special Designations) Order ....	31
Milk Supply ....	28, 54
Mosquitoes ....	19, 55
Notices issued (Public Health Acts) ....	60
Nursing Arrangements ....	13
Public Health Staff ...	13
Public Mortuary ....	60
Rat Destruction ....	19
River Pollution ....	18
Scavenging... ....	18
Schools ....	21
Sewerage ...	18
Slaughter houses ...	51
Stable Premises ...	60
Summary of complaints received ...	58
Tuberculosis Order ...	51
Tuberculous Diseases ...	40
"    Milk ...	30
Verminous Houses ...	55
Vital Statistics ...	9
Water Supply ...	17



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30033433>

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the year 1930.

---

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Sanitary and Maternity and  
Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1930, the twenty-fifth which I have had the responsibility of preparing. It follows closely Circular 1119 of the Ministry of Health.

Since it is the last Annual Report which I shall present to you, I may perhaps be permitted to give a brief comparison of the principal vital statistics during the first and last five years of the period.

The population has shown a comparatively small increase according to official calculations. In 1906 it was estimated as being 27,280, and in 1929 as being 29,540. The former figure is approximately correct, having been calculated on the results of the 1901 and 1911 Census. The latter (estimated by the Registrar-General) will probably require modification when the Census figures for 1931 are available. I have tentatively assumed the population at the middle of 1930 to be 30,000.

As regards births and deaths, up to 1911 no complete organisation existed for taking into account both births and deaths of persons in the Borough who were not properly residents,



and births and deaths of Reigate persons occurring in other districts. The gross births have greatly exceeded the nett births during the last five to ten years, inasmuch as considerable numbers of mothers come annually to nursing homes and institutions in the Borough for their confinements, while the reverse is not the case. Between 1906 and 1910 it is probable that the difference between gross and nett births was very much smaller, and insufficient to influence vital statistics materially. Still the birth rates in these years may have been somewhat lower than those recorded, and the infant mortality somewhat higher. It is fairly certain that, though deaths transferable to other districts were dealt with with few omissions before 1911, many deaths, which should have been transferred to the Borough, were not heard of. Consequently the death rates prior to 1911 were probably slightly under-estimated.

The birth and death rates for the period 1926-30 are over-estimated, if the 1931 Census shows that the population figures, supplied by the Registrar-General, are too low for these years.

Subject to these qualifications, the mean nett birth rate for the five-year period 1906-10 was 20.2 per 1,000 population, dropping to 13.2 in the period 1926-30. The decrease, though accentuated during the years of the European War, began its steady downward course in 1909, apart from a slight rise in 1920. Since there has been no counter-balancing large influx of young married couples with families, as is the case in urban districts nearer the Metropolis, the mean age of the population of the Borough has shown a steady rise. This was manifested by a comparison of the Census of 1921 with that of 1911, and is likely to be accentuated still more at the Census of 1931. A further factor has been the diminution of domestic servants employed in the larger residences.

Consequently a rise in the general death rate is to be anticipated after the lapse of years, and the fact that it has risen from a mean of 11.2 per 1,000 population in 1906-10 to 12.0 in 1926-30 does not indicate that the longevity of the residents has decreased.

In 1906-10 deaths of persons of 65 and upwards formed from 41 to 48 per cent. of all deaths. In 1926-30 the percentage varied from 57 to 62. A "factor" is calculated periodically by the Registrar-General for each sanitary district, which is above unity if the district contains an undue proportion of young people and

females as compared with the Country generally, and below unity if the age and sex distribution is unfavourable in these respects. Based on the Census of 1911 the factor for the Borough was 0.928 ; based on that for 1921 it was 0.821. If these factors are employed the mean " standardised " death rate for 1906-10 was 10.4, falling to 9.8 in the period 1926-30. Moreover, as has already been indicated, it is probable that the death rate in the earlier period may have been slightly under-estimated, and that in the later period slightly over-estimated.

One of the features of the 20-year period is the fall in the death rate among infants under one year per 1,000 births. Since the factor of population does not enter into the calculation, the comparative figures are more reliable than general death rates.

In 1906-10 the mean infant mortality was 75 ; in 1926-30 it had fallen to 40, (omitting deaths of infants occurring in the Foundling Hospital, which was not in the Borough during the earlier period).

This figure had shewn a tendency to fall before any special measures were taken by the Borough Council, but the sustained fall may be ascribed, at all events in part, to the efforts of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

As regards mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis, the death rate has fallen from a mean of 0.89 in 1906-10 to 0.51 in 1926-30. There has been a corresponding fall from 0.26 to 0.14 from other forms of tuberculosis. On the other hand the mortality from malignant disease has risen from 1.05 in 1906-10 to 1.78 in 1926-30. This is probably accounted for mainly by the increased mean age of the population during the period, inasmuch as the various forms of cancer occur principally after the age of 50.

It was formerly believed that the notifiable diseases, such as scarlet fever and diphtheria, arose largely from insanitary conditions, and that they should therefore decrease in prevalence with the improvement of environmental hygiene. This view is no longer tenable, and the control of outbreaks has become more and more difficult as facilities for locomotion increase, and as there is a freer intercourse in consequence between the inhabitants of different areas. The organisation of the School Medical Service is frequently able to check the spread of infection among the more susceptible members of the population, but the problem of

“carriers,” especially in the case of scarlet fever, makes effective control a matter of great difficulty.

While these diseases are spread chiefly by personal contact, occasionally some form of food is responsible, and during the past twenty-five years we have experienced an outbreak of scarlet fever and one of diphtheria, where the infection was conveyed by milk, and one of paratyphoid fever, where a temporarily infected water supply appeared to be the cause.

I am relinquishing my office with much regret. My responsibilities have been greatly lightened by the consideration I have experienced from the members of the Borough Council, and by the unfailing assistance and co-operation I have received from all their Officers, and especially from Mr. Humphery and his Staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Reigate.

17th March, 1931.

ARTHUR E. PORTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION I.

### Statistics and Social Conditions.

<i>Area</i> (Land and Inland Water) ... ..	5,995 acres
<i>Population</i> , Census 1921 (enumerated) ... ..	28,914
Do. „ „ (adjusted) ... ..	28,690
Do. (estimated by Registrar-General), 1929 ...	29,540
<i>Number of inhabited houses</i> (1921) ... ..	6,052
„ „ <i>inhabited houses at end of 1930, according to</i> <i>Rate Books</i> ... ..	6,920
<i>Rateable Value</i> (1930) ... ..	£278,781
<i>Sum represented by a Penny Rate</i> ... ..	£1,120

### Social conditions : Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The Borough is essentially a residential area. At the Census of 1921 out of the 8,209 “occupied” males, “Transport and Communications” claimed 1,219; “Commercial, Finance, and Insurance,” 1,156; “Agriculture” (including gardeners), 907; “Metal Workers,” 623; “Builders,” 460; “Clerks and Draughtsmen,” 454; and “Professional Occupations,” 402.

The largest classes among 4,489 “occupied” females were “Personal Service,” 2,673; “Commercial, Finance, and Insurance,” 432; “Professional Occupations,” 431; and “Textile Goods and Articles of Dress,” 303.

The Census figures for 1931 will probably give much the same result, with an increase among males employed at engineering and transport work.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total..	M.	F.				
<i>Live Births</i> { Legitimate ...	339	171	168	} Birth rate ... ..	11.7		
Illegitimate ...	12	7	5				
				Birth rate, 1929 ... ..	13.1		
				Birth rate 5 years 1925-29	13.6		
	Total.	M.	F.				
<i>Still Births</i> ... ..	12	8	4	Rate per 1,000 total births	33.1		
<i>Deaths (nett)</i> ...	333	155	178	Death rate ... ..	11.1		
Do. 1929 ...	371	...	...	Death rate 1929 ... ..	12.6		
Do., 5 years, 1925-9... 352	...	...	...	Death rate 5 years, 1925-29	12.2		

Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions, 34.5.

*Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth.*

From Sepsis ... Nil.

From other causes ... 1 (*vide p. 43*).

*Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—*

Legitimate, 29.5	Illegitimate, 166.7	Total ... ..	34.2
		Total, 1929 ... ..	39
		Total, 5 years, 1925-29	41

<i>Deaths from Measles</i> (all ages) ... ..	2
<i>Deaths from Whooping Cough</i> (all ages) ... ..	Nil
<i>Deaths from Diarrhœa</i> (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil

## **Population.**

The Registrar-General proposes to defer his estimate of populations for 1930 until the Census figures for 1931 are available, and it is suggested that the estimated figures for 1929 should be employed in calculating birth and death rates for 1930, unless there is reason to believe that there is evidence of an increase or decrease of population between mid-1929 and mid-1930 of sufficient magnitude to affect materially the calculation of rates. The population estimated by the Registrar-General for 1929 was 29,540, but, apart from any natural increase, as reflected by the erection and occupation of over 100 new houses during the period indicated, the advent of the personnel of the Foundling Hospital in 1926 has not been taken into account. Consequently I propose to consider the population at mid-1930 as 30,000, and I hardly anticipate that the Census figures will show this to be an over-estimate.

## **Births.**

The gross births registered in 1930 were 443, reduced to 351 after deducting births of infants of mothers who came to the Borough for their confinements, and adding births of Reigate infants which occurred elsewhere. The birth rate was therefore 11.7 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 13.1 in 1929, and a mean of 13.6 for the five years 1925-29, and is the lowest on record.

Illegitimate births formed 3.4 per cent. of the total, as compared with 6.2 in 1929, and 4.8 in 1928.

## **Deaths.**

After deducting the deaths of "non-residents," and adding those of Reigate persons who died elsewhere, there were 333 nett deaths, as compared with 371 in 1929, and 364 both in 1927 and 1928. The nett death rate was therefore 11.1 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 12.6 in 1929, 12.4 in 1928, and a mean of 12.2 for the five years 1925-29. The rate has not been below 12.0 since 1926, and in 1930 it was due principally to a lowered mortality among the aged, arising probably from a somewhat mild winter, and the absence of any serious epidemic of influenza. Deaths among persons of 65 and upwards formed 53.5 per cent. of all deaths, as compared with 62.3 per cent. in 1929. Deaths of persons of 70 and upwards formed 41.7 of all deaths; of 80 and upwards 15.0 per cent; and of 90 and upwards 1.8 per cent. Corresponding figures for 1929 were 47.3, 23.2 and 2.7.

Deaths from influenza, diseases of the respiratory organs, and Bright's Disease were appreciably below the mean of recent years, but excessive mortality was registered from cancer and heart disease, each of which accounted for approximately 17 per cent. of all deaths, and corresponded to a death rate of nearly 2 per 1,000 population.

Applying the factor, to correct the unfavourable age and sex distribution of the population in the Borough, the "standardised" death rate was 9.1 per 1,000, as compared with 10.3 in 1929.

The death rates for the four quarters were 12.9, 12.4, 9.2, and 9.8 respectively.

The excess of births over deaths was 18. In 1929 it was 15, and in 1928, 52.

The causes of death were as under:—

					M.	F.
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	...	...	2
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	4	2
7	Influenza	...	...	...	2	...
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	4	6
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	2	5
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	24	35
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	1	...
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	10	11
16	Heart disease	...	...	...	28	32
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	4	5
18	Bronchitis	...	...	...	8	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6	5
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	4	2
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	2	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	2	2
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	2	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	2	5
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	2	7
29	Suicide	...	...	...	1	...
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	11	2
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	34	45
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above):—						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
					155	178



## Infant Mortality.

The nett deaths of infants under one year of age were 12, namely 5 males and 7 females, as against 15 in 1928 and 1929. It is the smallest number ever recorded in the Borough. The figure for Infant Mortality per 1,000 births was 34.2, comparing with 39 in 1929 and a mean of 41 for the five years 1925-29.

The causes of death were:—Prematurity (6), including illegitimate twins who lived 7 and 8 hours respectively; congenital deformities (2); and erysipelas, meningitis, tuberculous peritonitis, and injury at birth (1 each).

The twins referred to were the only instances of deaths among illegitimate infants, but represent an infant mortality of 167 per 1,000 illegitimate births.

Comparative vital statistics for 1930 are as follows:—

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Infant Mortality
England and Wales ...	16.3	11.4	60
159 Towns (1921 pop- ulations of 20,000— 50,000) ... ..	16.2	10.5	55
Reigate ... ..	11.7	11.1*	34.2

\*This is the nett death rate. The "Standardised" rate was 9.1.

**Causes of Sickness and Invalidity specially noteworthy during the year.**

**Conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.**

Apart from the abnormal prevalence of scarlet fever and diphtheria, which is referred to in Sec. VI, there is nothing noteworthy to record under either of these headings.



## SECTION II.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### Staff of the Sanitary, and Maternity and Child Welfare Departments.

*Medical Officer of Health* :—A. E. Porter, M.D., D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health of the Reigate Rural District Council).

*Medical Officer (part-time) of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic* :—Frances M. Bowles Price, M.D., D.P.H.

*Public Analyst (part-time)* :—E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C.

*Veterinary Inspector (part-time)* :—S. E. Holmes, O.B.E., M.R.C.V.S.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector* :—J. P. Humphery, Cert. San. Inst.

*Sanitary Inspector* :—G. Janes, Cert. San. Inst., Cert. Meat & Foods.

Do. do. W. Rowsell, do. do.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector* :—A. J. Stewart.

*Disinfecting Officer* :—F. G. Stewart.

*Clerk* :—L. Warboys (resigned in October).

*Health Visitor* :—Mrs. L. Gilders, C.M.B.

*Health Visitor and School Clinic Nurse* :—Miss D. V. Tassell, C.M.B.,  
Health Cert. San. Inst. (resigned in October).

#### Professional Nursing in the Home for General and Infectious Diseases.

Apart from private associations supplying trained nurses, the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, affiliated to the County N.A., has a staff of four " Queen's " nurses who are also midwives, in addition to the Matron. The Borough Council have an arrangement with the Association to undertake the nursing of those classes of illness which have been recognised for this purpose by the Ministry of Health, a definite payment being made per visit.

In South Park there is a separate Nursing Association affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

At the extreme South-eastern portion of the Borough similar work is undertaken by the Salfords branch of the Horley Nursing Association.

## Midwives.

There are now no midwives of the " bona fide " class practising in the Borough. The whole of the midwifery is carried out by the staff of the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, and those of the South Park and Salfords Associations mentioned above. The Borough Council pays 5/- a case for each confinement attended in a working class dwelling by the staff of the first named Association. Except in emergencies the work is carried out by two of the staff only. No cases were attended by the Salfords nurse in 1930.

There are, in addition, midwives attached to the County Nursing Association Maternity Home, and to the Guardians' Institution. Nine midwives notified their intention to practise during 1930. Of these, however, 4 were connected with Maternity or Nursing Homes.

## Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens taken by medical practitioners are sent for bacteriological examination either to the Pathological Department of the East Surrey Hospital, or to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London.

Samples of milk or foods for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., in London.

Samples of potable water are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples of foods and drugs for chemical examination are sent to Mr. E. Hinks, Public Analyst.

## Legislation in Force.

### Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	adopted	1890
Public Health Acts, Amendment, Act, 1890	...	..		1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	..		1892
Public Health Acts, Amendment, Act, 1907	...	..		1907
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II to V	...	..		1925

Byelaws with respect to New Streets & Buildings ... adopted	1926
„ „ „ „ Slaughter-houses ... .. „	1891
„ „ „ „ Offensive Trades ... .. „	1891
„ „ „ „ Nuisances ... .. „	1891
„ „ „ „ Cleansing of footways, etc. „	1891
„ „ „ „ Common Lodging Houses „	1891
„ „ „ „ Good Rule and Government „	1905

The Surrey County Council Act, 1925, contains provisions with respect to Ice Cream, for a portion of the administration of which the Borough Council are responsible.

### Hospitals.

The East Surrey Hospital serves a large area in the South-east of Surrey and deals with all classes of case, except normal cases of labour. An orthopaedic department was opened during the year. The Borough Council makes an annual contribution to the Hospital.

The Institution, formerly forming the Poor Law Workhouse and Infirmary, was taken over by the County Council. Here maternity cases are admitted, as well as medical and surgical ones.

The Surrey County Nursing Association's Maternity Home in Redhill receives patients from the eastern part of the Administrative County. It has six beds. The Borough Council contribute towards the maintenance of patients in necessitous cases. This Home is to be closed in 1931, a fact to be regretted, as it has been of great service.

Small-pox patients are taken to the County Joint Hospital at Clandon, near Guildford.

Cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, etc., are isolated at the Hospital of the Reigate Joint Hospital Board. If all the buildings are in use, about 70 patients could be accommodated.

Patients suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs are sent principally to the County Sanatorium at Milford.

Arrangements have been made with the East Surrey Hospital for the reception of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum at a charge of 1/6 a day for the infant, or 8/6 a day, if accompanied by the mother.



## **Maternity and Nursing Homes.**

Under the Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, application for registration was made to the County Council by eight persons. Six were registered, and two others approved, subject to small structural additions, which were completed during the year.

Two are for medical, surgical and maternity cases ; two for medical and maternity cases ; one for nerve and senile cases ; one for mental, nerve and chronic cases ; two for maternity cases only. One of the last-named is a cottage residence where an occasional maternity case is accommodated.

Inspection of the Homes is delegated to the Borough Council, and all of them were visited during the year. A copy of the report was forwarded to the County Council.

## **Maternal Mortality.**

Maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia are investigated by Officers of the Borough Council.

## **Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District.**

There is no provision within the district for these classes, except at the Guardians' Institution, now taken over by the County Council.

## **Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) For infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital by the Joint Hospital Board.

(b) For non-infectious cases. The Council has a motor ambulance, in charge of the Police. The Borough of Reigate Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has three motor ambulances, which serve a large area.

## **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The Borough Council's Health Centre is used for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School Clinics. It is situated in Brownlow Road, Redhill, and five rooms are set aside for the purpose. The infant consultations are held twice a week and a doctor is in attendance. Ante-natal clinics are held about once a month, as occasion requires.



A child welfare Clinic is also held once a week at the Constitutional Club, South Park, financed by a voluntary Committee. There is no medical attendant. The Borough Council makes an annual contribution.

#### **Tuberculosis Dispensary.**

The County Council's Dispensary is situated off London Road, Redhill.

#### **Venereal Diseases Clinic.**

Provision is made at the East Surrey Hospital, with a subsidy from the County Council.

#### **Day Nurseries, and Artificial Light Clinics.**

There are none in the Borough.

---

### **SECTION III.**

#### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

##### **Water.**

The Borough is supplied by the East Surrey Water Co. In recent years this Company has taken over the undertakings of the following Water Companies:—Leatherhead and District; Limpsfield and Oxted; and Chelsham and Woldingham. So far, however, as the Borough is concerned, the water is at present derived and distributed in the same manner as before the amalgamations.

This water is pumped from deep borings in the chalk at Purley, Kenley, and Smitham, which vary from 150 to 300 feet in depth. It is softened by Clark's precipitation process, the hardness being reduced from about 25 to between 7 and 10 parts per 100,000. The water from the Purley bores is subjected to a chlorination and dechlorination process.

After this treatment the water is pumped to gravitation reservoirs at Alderstead and Warlingham. There is a small balancing tank at Reigate Hill, and a break pressure tank at Park Hill. The bacteriological examinations of the public supply in recent years have indicated that it is of a high degree of purity.

A sample taken on July 30th, 1930, gave the following results :

No. of organisms per c.c. growing on nutrient gelatine in 3 days...	22
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ agar „ 1 day ...	5
Acid and gas in bile-salt glucose broth ...	absent in 100 c.c.
„ „ „ „ „ „ lactose „ ...	„ „ 100 c.c.
B. Coli Communis ...	... „ „ 100 c.c.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes ...	... „ „ 100 c.c.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The Thames Conservancy exercise supervision over the River Mole and its tributaries. Complaints were received of pollution by the effluent from the sewage disposal works. A consulting engineer was instructed to report on the action necessary to improve the quality of the effluent.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

There are no important changes to be recorded.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

All dwellings on the sewerage system, and practically all those draining to cesspools, are provided with water closets. In some of the older premises these were hand-flushed, but in practically all instances flushing cisterns have now been provided. During 1930 flushing apparatus was provided to one house, and in two houses water closets were substituted for pail closets, and drained to cesspools.

### **Scavenging.**

Weekly removal of house refuse is aimed at by the Corporation. In most instances moveable bins are provided, but in some of the older properties fixed receptacles are found during inspection. During 1930 bins were provided at 5 premises, previously furnished with ashpits.

The refuse destructor, referred to in my report for 1929, was completed in the middle of the year ; but it failed to carry out the specified requirements, and its operations were stopped pending investigations by the Contractors.

## **Sanitary Inspection of the District.**

To avoid duplication, reference may be made to the report of the Sanitary Inspector following this report.

## **Smoke Abatement.**

No complaints were received, and no action was necessary in 1930.

## **Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.**

These include one tannery, one gut-scraper, 13 slaughter-houses, one knacker's yard, 12 cowsheds, and two common lodging houses. One of the slaughter-houses is subject to annual licence, the remainder are registered.

Annual licences were granted for the knacker's yard, and gut-scraping premises.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the Borough.

## **Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.**

### **Destruction of Rats.**

The appointment of the special Officer to assist in the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act was continued. During "Rat Week" two organised demonstrations were held at the Corporation Farm and the Disposal Works. A film was also exhibited.

### **Mosquitoes.**

The periodical spraying of breeding-places was discontinued. A really effective campaign against mosquitoes can only be carried out through an elaborate organisation (official or otherwise), which will continue its activities throughout the greater part of the year.



## Health Propaganda.

For many years advice on the preservation of health has been given to sections of the public by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, also by leaflets issued in connection with transmissible disease, flies, summer diarrhoea, etc. During the year the Council decided to continue the distribution of the monthly magazine, "Better Health," issued by the Central Council for Health Education. Two thousand copies are distributed and, so far as possible, all the houses in the Borough receive copies in alternate months. In each issue is included a short article, compiled alternately by the Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Sanitary Inspector, on some public health subject. During 1930 the matters dealt with were :—Frost Precautions, Cancer, Mosquitoes, Scarlet Fever, the Care of Milk, and the functions of the School Medical Service.

## Factories and Workshops.

Inspections made and defects found are shown in the subjoined tables prescribed by the Home Office :—

### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	68	3	—
<b>Workshops</b> ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	168	8	—
<b>Workplaces</b> ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
<b>Total</b> ... ..	236	11	—



## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Pro- secutions.  (5)
	Found.  (2)	Remedied.  (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector.  (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	18	7	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	2	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	1	1	—	—
Want of drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	3	1	—	—
Sanitary {insufficient ...	2	2	—	—
accom- {unsuitable or				
modation {defective ...	15	7	—	—
{not separate				
{for sexes ...	2	2	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total... ..	43	21		

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

## 3.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES (SECTION 108).

No action was necessary.

### Schools.

There are several private boarding and day schools for boys and girls in the Borough, whose conditions are quite satisfactory. There are also Secondary Day Schools for boys and girls under the joint control of the Surrey County and the Borough Councils ; that for boys is the Reigate Grammar School.

The Public Elementary Schools are twelve in number, comprising twenty-one departments, nine of which are "provided," and twelve "non-provided." The former are quite satisfactory in construction, surroundings, and sanitary provision. The latter vary considerably, especially as regards lighting, ventilation, warming, and equipment generally. The public water supply for washing and drinking is available in all.

Owing to the recent growth in population at South Park, the result chiefly of the erection of working-class dwellings by the Borough Council, the school is no longer adequate for the needs of the neighbourhood. The Education Committee have had this matter under consideration, and in July the Town Clerk was requested to make application to the Ministry of Health and Board of Education for their approval to the acquisition of a site of two acres for the erection of an open-air type of school for 200 junior mixed scholars, aged 7-11 inclusive.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and one of the Health Visitors is also one of the School Nurses. There is complete co-ordination between the two departments in regard to the prevention of spread of infectious diseases. The Memorandum, issued in 1925 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education jointly, is adhered to in its main details. A copy has been supplied to each of the Head Teachers.

### **Rag Flock Acts, 1911 & 1929.**

Rag flock is not manufactured in the Borough. No action during the year was required.

---

## **SECTION IV.**

### **Housing.**

#### **(a) Statistics.**

The Surveyor informs me that 103 new houses were completed in 1930, 54 of them being considered working class dwellings. Of these, 28 were erected by the Borough Council, and 26 by private enterprise. The only houses erected with State assistance were the 28 completed by the Borough Council. These were all for the purpose of Part III of the Act of 1925.

# 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	224
	Inspections made ... ..	972
(b)	Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	158
	Inspections made ... ..	604
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	22
(d)	Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under (c), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	143

# 2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	55
--	--	----

# 3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 ...	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	32
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners ... ..	20
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners...	Nil
C.	Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 ... ..	Nil
	(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	10
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	10
	(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil
	(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	Nil



(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in  
pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

Demolition Orders were not necessary. Three were demolished in 1930, four are in course of demolition, and the remainder are under consideration. One of the houses demolished was closed in 1929.

#### 4. Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

No houses are owned under Part II of the Housing Act of 1925. The total number owned by the Council is 183, of which 36 have been built in the last two years; these are held under Part III.

#### (b) Housing Conditions.

The following figures are taken from the Census returns since 1861 :—

Year.	No. of inhabited houses.		Population.	Average No. of persons per house.		
1861	...	1,583	...	9,975	...	6.3
1871	...	2,587	...	15,961	...	6.2
1881	...	3,201	...	18,662	...	5.8
1891	...	3,952	...	22,646	...	5.4
1901	...	4,873	...	25,993	...	5.3
1911	...	5,698	...	28,502	...	5.0
1921	...	6,052	...	28,690 (adjusted)		4.7

These figures show that there were between two and three thousand houses erected before the Public Health Act of 1875 had vested Local Authorities with important supervisory powers over new buildings. Consequently there still remain many houses without damp-proof courses, with deficient window area, and, in some few instances, with insufficient air space; and even after the passing of the Act, many years elapsed before the degree of control over new buildings reached the present standard.

The figures also show a progressive fall in the average number of persons per dwelling, and it is probable that a further fall will be indicated when the results of the 1931 Census are published.

The Census populations of the Borough in different years have been somewhat influenced by the existence of various large residential institutions, such as the Workhouse and Infirmary,



the Royal Earlswood Institution, the Reformatory Farm School, and the School of the Royal Society of St. Anne's Society. The children at the lastnamed left the Borough in 1920, and the premises remained vacant, until occupied in 1926 by the staff and children of the Foundling Hospital. This partially accounts for the apparently small increase in population between the Census of 1911 and 1921. If these buildings had been occupied in 1921 the average number of persons per house would probably have been 4.8 instead of 4.7. The fall in the number of occupants per house may be accounted for partly by the progressive fall in the birth rate and partly by a gradual reduction of female domestic staffs in the larger houses. Excluding the persons living in public institutions the average number of persons per house in 1911 was 4.6, and in 1921, 4.5.

Whilst the standard of working-class houses in the Borough may be considered as good (e.g., in comparison with the Country as a whole), there are considerable numbers of old properties which demand frequent attention. In order to expedite the systematic inspection of working-class dwellings, the Borough Council appointed an additional Sanitary Inspector during the year, and one of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's staff now devotes his whole time to house to house inspection. A few cottages are below modern standards of habitability, and condemnation has only been delayed in consequence of the shortage of working-class dwellings.

It is not possible to proportion exactly the responsibility of owner and occupier for insanitary conditions found, but the Chief Sanitary Inspector considers that approximately it is equally divided.

Overcrowding, as measured by the cubic air space for sleeping purposes, is not very prevalent. In 1930 12 cases came to the knowledge of the Department; in 1929, 14 cases; and in 1928, 4 cases.

The Registrar-General's standard:—population living more than two persons to a room, stated as a percentage of total private family population, was 3.8 in 1921, as compared with 3.0 in 1911. The figure for 1931 will probably show an appreciable reduction. In 1921 the shortage of houses was in its most acute stage.

Frequent instances occur where two families share a house, and where in consequence there is inadequate separate sleeping accommodation for the two sexes.

In my Annual Report for 1914 I was able to state that in the Redhill portion of the Borough there were numerous vacant working class dwellings of various sizes, but that at the Reigate end this was less common. The estimated population for that year was 29,375 (including the inmates of St. Anne's Schools). Since that date working-class dwellings have never been vacant for a long time, and, up to the end of 1930 over 800 additional dwellings had been completed, of which some 450 were classed as being of working-class type. The estimated population had only increased by 165. Allowing a figure of 900 for the staff and children at St. Anne's Schools, and for the slight decrease in the persons enumerated in Public Institutions in 1921 as compared with 1911, the increase of population in private families would be between 1,000 and 1,100. The total number of houses closed by the Council between 1914 and 1930 was only 25, and, so far as I am aware, no working-class dwellings have been demolished to make way for newer houses or business premises. Consequently, the new houses should be sufficient to accommodate an additional total population of about 3,000, and an additional working-class population of nearly 2,000.

If the Census of 1931 should show that the discrepancy between the estimated and the actual population is not great, the shortage of working-class houses, which undoubtedly still exists, will be difficult of explanation. Partly it may be accounted for by the tendency of adult females, who formerly would have been resident in domestic service, to live at home and be engaged in occupations, e.g., in shops and offices, which used to be filled by men. Perhaps also a higher standard of domestic comfort is now expected than was the case fifteen years or so ago.

Since 1920 the Council have completed 235 working-class dwellings in eight different localities. Of these 116 are of the parlour, and 119 of the non-parlour type. Fifty-two have been sold. Of the remainder the rentals range from 8/8 to 15/-, or, taking into account rates and water rate, from 11/10 to 19/-. On the former basis the rents of the parlour houses vary between 12/- and 15/-, and the non-parlour houses between 8/8 and 12/6.

The standard of overcrowding adopted by the Sanitary Department is the usual one of 300 cubic feet of air space in sleeping rooms for each person over 10 years of age, and 150 cubic feet for each person under 10. This is the cubic space provided for in the



Model Bye-laws for houses let in lodgings. The instances of overcrowding met with in the Borough arise largely from the sub-letting of a part of a house. In some instances the families of the tenants or sub-tenants were sufficiently small at the commencement, but increase as years pass by. There are also, however, families who appear to be entirely indifferent to their home surroundings, and who, when induced to move from one overcrowded house, are subsequently found in another one equally unsuitable for their numbers.

In Reigate, as in other localities, the provision of house accommodation for the poorest families is a difficulty which has not yet been overcome. It can scarcely be satisfied by the type of cottage which must carry a weekly charge of 10/- and upwards. It may be suggested that the requirements of this class might possibly be met by a cheaper sort of dwelling of the flat or tenement type. If such dwellings could be devised, to let at about 6/- to 7/- a week, the difficulty referred to would tend to be solved.

In December the Council's Housing Agent reported that there were 87 applications for houses on the reserve list, which had been accepted as qualifying, and an additional 300 applications, of which it was anticipated that one-half would qualify.

At a joint meeting of members of the Sanitary and Housing Committees in December it was decided to aim at the production of 300 new working-class houses during the next five years, and it was estimated that a further 125 houses would be erected by private enterprise during the period. It was further estimated that 37 old houses would require closing, and that corresponding provision would have to be made for the occupants out of the 300 new houses contemplated.

The remedying of defects is carried out exclusively under the Public Health Acts, and the provisions of Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, have not been made use of, owing to the practical difficulties they involve.

In genuine cases of financial stringency some latitude is afforded to owners as regards defects which are not of urgent importance. The majority of repairs are carried out without the issue of statutory notices, and it is many years since it has been necessary to issue a Summons under the Public Health Acts.



All the houses in the Borough with 23 exceptions are supplied with water by the East Surrey Water Co. Of the exceptions 12 have piped supplies from a deep well in the lower greensand, owned privately, the remaining 11 relying on wells of varying depth. All these supplies have recently been examined bacteriologically. That from the deep well is of the highest class. The water from two wells supplying four cottages was found to be polluted ; that from five wells supplying the remaining cottages was reported on as fit for domestic purposes, though in two instances there was evidence of pollution from the surface, or the upper layers of the earth.

All houses have closet accommodation within their own curtilages. In a few of the outlying districts this takes the form of pail closets.

There are no areas which can be dealt with as " Unhealthy Areas " under the Housing Acts.

There are no bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds, etc., nor to houses let in lodgings.

---

## SECTION V.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

#### **(a) Milk Supply.**

A classified list of producers and vendors of milk is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In the Borough itself there are twelve farms from which the public is supplied, the greater part being derived from farms outside, and principally from neighbouring parishes. The cows in the Borough are inspected periodically by the Veterinary Staff of the Surrey County Council. One tuberculous cow was found during the year, which was slaughtered, and found to be suffering from advanced tuberculosis.

#### **Microscopical and Bacteriological Examination of Milk.**

The examination of samples of milk bacteriologically was initiated in 1923, when it was limited to a search for the tubercle bacillus. In 1924 samples were examined also for the presence or absence of dirt by microscopical methods. In 1928 the investigations were extended by an enumeration of the number of bacteria

in a cubic centimetre, and by a search for the bacillus coli in small fractions of a cubic centimetre, and they have been continued in 1929 and 1930.

Special care is necessary in taking samples for a bacterial count, and valuable assistance has been given by the Matron of the East Surrey Hospital in arranging for the sampling outfits to be sterilized prior to the taking of each batch of samples.

A copy of the report on each sample has been sent to the Sanitary Inspector of the district whence the supply was derived, and an extract, giving the bacterial count and presence or absence of the bacillus coli, has been forwarded to the retailer for his private information. If a report shows that there may be disease or illness amongst the cows, an extract of that report is sent to the County Medical Officer of Health concerned. Judging from the correspondence received, Sanitary Inspectors, to whom reports have been sent, have found them helpful. Retailers have been equally appreciative, and their interest in the cleanliness of the product they sell has been considerably increased.

County Medical Officers of Health have intimated the action which has been taken by Veterinary Officers, and after a suitable interval a repeat sample of the affected supply has been obtained. During the year 108 samples (including 15 "repeat" samples) have been taken. They represented about 1,326 gallons, mainly of the morning milking, being drawn from the churns before manipulation by the retailers. Fifty-four of the samples were taken during the winter months, when the difficulty of excluding dirt at the time of milking is greatest. The samples examined in 1929 were 116.

The results of the examination are as follows:—

- (1) **Bacterial Count and B. Coli Test.**—Seventy-four samples were within the bacteriological standard required for Grade A milk, i.e., not more than 200,000 bacteria per c.c., nor any b. coli in 1/100 c.c. In the case of Grade A milk, however, the standard mentioned must be maintained right up to the time of delivery to the consumer, and, taking into account the temperature of the milk at the time of sampling (the temperature of the milk was between 50° and 60° F in 31 instances, and 60° or over in 43), and the abnormally long spell of hot weather, it is probable that, after handling by the retailer in the dairy and in the course of delivery,



the bacterial count of many of the samples would have increased to beyond the number allowed in Grade A milk. B. coli was present in 1/100th c.c. in 30 samples ; in 1/1,000th c.c. in 8 samples, and in 1/10,000th c.c. in 1 sample.

28 samples had a bacterial content of below 30,000 per c.c.

20    „        „        „        „ more than 100,000    „    „

7     „        „        „        „        „        200,000    „    „

The average bacterial count was 108,090 per c.c.

(2) **Animal Inoculation for the tubercle bacillus.**

Tubercle bacilli were found in one sample, as against six positive results last year.

The County Medical Officer concerned (East Sussex) was immediately informed, and he reported later that although samples were taken from every cow in the herd, the milk gave no indication of infection.

It was not possible to obtain a repeat sample of this supply at the retailer's premises, as a few weeks after the first sample was taken the contract with the wholesaler was terminated.

(3) **Microscopical Examination.**—Five primary samples contained streptococci, as well as an excess of leucocytes, presumptive evidence of inflammation of the udder ; last year 7 samples were found to contain these organisms. Repeat samples showed that the action taken by County Veterinary Officers had been successful in clearing the various supplies of the organisms.

Pus or blood were not found in any samples.

Vegetable detritus was found in 28 primary samples as against 52 last year and 22 in 1928. This foreign substance indicates to some extent uncleanness in the milking process. Leucocytes showed a slight excess in 30 and a decided excess in 2 samples, as against 36 and 10 in 1929, and 16 and 3 in 1928. An excess of squamous cells was reported in 3 samples. There were no such instances in 1929.

Complaints were received in September as to the condition of milk supplied on a certain day to the children of one of the Public Elementary Schools, under a voluntary scheme inaugurated by



the National Milk Publicity Council. A sample was submitted for examination, and was found to be sour, and on the point of clotting. The acidity was represented by a figure of 70 as against a normal of 20 to 25, and the number of bacteria growing on Agar in 48 hours at 37° C was 960,000 per 1 c.c. *B. coli* was present in 0.0001 c.c. The matter was taken up with the dairy supplying the milk, and no further complaints were received.

#### **Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.**

Licences were granted to three retailers to sell "Certified" Milk, the farms being situated outside the Borough.

#### **(b) Meat and other Foods.**

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed, and the inspection of premises where food is prepared.

#### **(c) Adulteration, etc.**

Details of samples submitted to the Council's Analyst are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

No special action was taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 & 1927, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927. The majority of the articles submitted to the Analyst, and recorded in the Sanitary Inspector's report, were examined for preservatives, but none were found.

#### **(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd. Bacteriological examination of other kinds of food has not been indicated during the year.

Complaints were received with respect to certain tins of dried milk and Virol, purchased by a dog-breeder, which had caused illness among the dogs. On enquiry it was found that these foods had been stored by the chemist far beyond the dates prescribed by the manufacturers. The chemist was cautioned, and all out of date consignments at his various branches were dealt with.

## SECTION VI.

### Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

#### (1) The Notifiable Diseases.

Table I shows the notifications received in 1930. "Other Diseases" include 9 cases of erysipelas and one of encephalitis lethargica.

No case of small-pox occurred during the year, but a large number of contacts were reported from London and from other parts of the County, and were visited and kept under observation.

#### Scarlet Fever.

Including 6 patients in the Police Orphanage, 1 at the Royal Earlswood Institution, and 3 cases found by the School Nurse, the notifications for the year amounted to 130 as compared with 75 in 1929, and 30 in 1928. This is the largest number notified since 1921, when it amounted to 169. Difficulties in the way of exercising adequate control were partly the prolonged character of the infection, and partly the failure by heads of families in some instances to recognise the nature of slight febrile attacks. The former factor is partially illustrated by the frequent occurrence of definite "return cases," to which reference is made subsequently; there is, however, no doubt that much fresh infection arose from similar sources, but was less obvious, because it was exercised in households other than those to which the convalescent patients belonged. The failure to recognise the nature of the disease in mild cases is a feature which will always be important in outbreaks of scarlet fever. It does not necessarily occur wilfully in all instances; often the diagnosis baffles members of the medical profession. The absence of a reliable bacteriological test, which can readily be applied, is a big handicap.

A further difficulty may have been the existence of carriers analogous to diphtheria carriers, occurring among persons who have been in contact with cases of the disease. These cannot be demonstrated bacteriologically, but investigations during outbreaks of scarlet fever, if carried out carefully, seldom fail to indicate their existence.

TABLE I.

Ages.	Diphtheria.			Scarlet Fever.			Puerperal Fever*.			Enteric Fever.†			Pneumonia.			Other Diseases.		
	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Deaths
0-1	2															1		
1-2										1								
2-3	3			2														
3-4	2			3														
4-5	3			8						1								
5-10	33			55						1								
10-15	13			32						1								
15-20	12			9			1											
20-35	11			11			1			2								
35-45	4			7												4		
45-65				3						1						4		
over 65	1															1		
Total :	84	62	6	130	115	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	9	Nil	11	10	Nil	1

\* Including Puerperal Pyrexia.

† Including typhoid and paratyphoid fever.



The 123 cases, excluding those at the Police Orphanage and the Royal Earlswood Institution, occurred in 93 different dwellings, and 109 were removed to hospital, four of them being accommodated at the Bletchingley Hospital. There were no deaths. One cottage provided 8 cases, another 4, five others 3 apiece, whilst double attacks in the same house were still more numerous. The disease was most prevalent in the first half of the year, 92 notifications having been received by the end of June. It was practically confined to the eastern half of the Borough, and, although, thanks to the exertions of Nurse Reese, school attendance had no perceptible influence in the spread of infection, the majority of cases among school children occurred largely in the areas served by the Hooley, St. John's, and Cromwell Road Schools. All school children on discharge from hospital, or after isolation at their homes had ceased, were examined by Nurse Reese. In view of the prevalence of definite "return" cases a somewhat lengthy period of exclusion was required, especially as regards children who showed unhealthy conditions of throat, nose, or ears. No precautions, however, can be enforced to prevent such children from mixing freely with their friends and neighbours.

In April circulars, calling the attention of parents to the necessity of being on the watch for slight attacks of the disease, were distributed through a representative of each family attending Cromwell Road and Hooley Council Schools.

**Return Cases.**—In twelve instances scarlet fever broke out in houses to which convalescent patients had recently been discharged from hospital. The number of these return cases, however, was 16, inasmuch as there were three in one house, and two in two others. From the dates of discharge of the convalescent patients to the dates of onset in the contacts the intervals were 3 (twice), 4, 7, 9, 10, 13 (twice), 17, 25, 33, 41, 47, 51 (twice), and 96 days respectively. The last period may appear to be a long one, but the convalescent patient had chronic discharge from the ear, for which he remained excluded from school. He had been in hospital for nearly six months.

During the year 116 scarlet fever patients had been discharged from hospital. The "return case rate" was therefore 14 per cent., or, including only the first return case in each house, 10 per cent.

We had strong grounds for believing that many other attacks, especially in the Hooley neighbourhood, were due to convalescent patients who had mixed freely with susceptible individuals belonging to other families.

### **Concurrent Diphtheritic Infection.**

Bacteriological examinations of the throats and noses of scarlet fever patients after their removal to hospital showed that 63 had the double infection at one time or another ; in 13 instances the throat was the seat of infection, in 31 the nose, and in 19 both throat and nose. Inasmuch as the patients, including those from the Police Orphanage, removed to hospital numbered 115, the percentage incidence of the double infection was 54.8. This is a much higher figure than has been recorded previously during a period of high prevalence. In many instances the infection was of a very chronic nature ; further reference is made to the subject in the section dealing with diphtheria.

### **Diphtheria.**

Including 8 cases (mostly nasal) found in school, and 7 cases at their homes by Nurse Reese, there were 84 notified during the year. Of these, however, 13 were inmates or members of the staff of the Royal Earlswood Institution, and 6 were children at the Foundling Hospital. The 65 patients not in public institutions came from 55 different houses. Of these 55 were removed to the Reigate Joint Hospital, one to the Bletchingley Hospital, and one died shortly after admission to the East Surrey Hospital. The children from the Foundling Hospital were removed to the Reigate Joint Hospital, whilst the patients at the Royal Earlswood Institution were treated at the Institution. In 13 instances the infection appeared to have been limited to the nose.

This is the largest number occurring in private families since 1920, and was associated as in 1920 with a heavy incidence of scarlet fever. These two diseases not uncommonly occur in conjunction, the outbreak of scarlet fever as a rule preceding that of diphtheria. The fact that nearly 55 per cent. of the cases of scarlet fever, admitted to hospital in 1930, had concurrent diphtheritic infection whilst under isolation furnishes a probable connection between the two diseases.



There were six deaths during the year, five of them occurring in the Joint Hospital. They were a child of 2 admitted on the fourth day of the disease ; a child of 5 admitted on the third day ; a woman of 19 removed on the tenth day ; a child of 2 removed on the third day ; and one of the same age also removed on the third day. In the case of the adult the nature of the disease was not suspected until her nine-months old baby was attacked.

The sixth fatal case was that of a child aged 6, thought by the parents to be suffering from mumps. The School Nurse advised the mother to call in a doctor, but she delayed in doing so, and the patient was admitted in a dying condition into the East Surrey Hospital on the fourth day of the disease.

A letter was sent to all the medical practitioners in the Borough advocating either removal to hospital for observation, or the administration of antitoxin in severe cases, pending a bacteriological examination.

There was no marked seasonal prevalence ; cases were reported in every month of the year, the heaviest incidence being in January, March, September, October, November and December. With the exception of Holmesdale School, school attendance played only a small part in the spread of the disease, thanks largely to the supervision exercised by Nurse Reese, who, as already mentioned, found 15 actual cases of the disease either in school or at their homes, as well as many carriers in infected families or school classes.

The outbreak in Holmesdale School (mainly the Junior Department) occurred in September, October and November. The actual source of infection was not identified. There were 12 cases of diphtheria (7 of the nasal variety), and 15 carriers in infected houses. In only two instances had a doctor been consulted, the remaining 10 cases of actual diphtheria having been found by Nurse Reese, 5 whilst attending school, and 5 visited as school absentees. The outbreak ceased at the end of November.

### **Carriers.**

All children in infected houses who attend public elementary schools, as well as a few above or below school age, are examined bacteriologically by the Council's staff. A number of contacts are examined by their medical attendants. In addition, a few children, who were in intimate contact with cases of the disease at school, were also dealt with. Among the 68 thus investigated,



41 carriers were found ; 8 had the infection in the throat, 27 in the nose, and 6 in both throat and nose. The majority were removed to hospital, but a few were kept at home under observation. There were also 7 carriers among children at the Foundling Hospital, of whom 5 were removed to hospital.

In addition to this class of carrier, all children of school age, who have been discharged from hospital, are examined shortly after their return home. At the beginning of the year this examination was limited to diphtheria patients, and to scarlet fever patients who were known to have had the double infection whilst in hospital, but in the latter half of the year a case of diphtheria occurred in a family to which a scarlet fever patient had been discharged, and this patient was found to be a carrier, although he had not been reported as such whilst in hospital. We then examined the throats and noses of all school children who had been discharged from the scarlet fever wards, and also of those who had been isolated at home. As a result of these measures **nine** convalescent scarlet fever patients and ten convalescent diphtheria patients were found still to be harbouring the diphtheria bacillus in throat, nose, or ear. Eleven of these nineteen patients were re-admitted to hospital, while the remainder were kept under some degree of supervision at home, swabs being taken at intervals of a few weeks, until negative results were obtained.

In addition there were 18 scarlet fever patients (harbouring the diphtheria bacillus) and 6 diphtheria patients, who were discharged from the hospital before they were free from diphtheritic infection, at their own request (in the case of adults), or at the request of the parents. All of these who were of school age had to be kept under observation, and until negative bacteriological results were obtained.

Whilst exclusion from school can be maintained, rigid isolation cannot be enforced in the case of carriers, and it is not surprising that diphtheria was unusually prevalent.

### **Prolonged Infection.**

Many instances were met with during the year, as regards both cases of diphtheria and of cases of scarlet fever with concurrent diphtheritic infection. Among the former class there were periods of infectivity of 14, 15, 16, 23, 28 (twice), and 40 weeks. Among the latter 12, 16, 17, 20, 21 (twice), 23, 41 and 43 weeks. As an

instance of the former, a boy of 8 was removed to hospital in April, discharged on June 24th, re-admitted on June 27th, re-discharged on September 1st, re-admitted on September 4th, and re-discharged on December 27th. Negative results were then obtained, and he was considered to be free from infection. As an instance of the latter class, a boy of 10 was admitted to hospital on March 17th, discharged June 2nd, re-admitted June 18th, re-discharged September 13th, re-admitted September 30th, and re-discharged October 17th. Swabs were then taken from the throat, nose, and ear, and yielded positive results in the case of nose and ear. It was not until the end of the year that negative results were obtained.

### **Return Cases.**

These are unusual in the case of diphtheria, but in 1930 three instances occurred where the infection appeared to have been contracted from convalescent scarlet fever patients, and one instance where a discharged diphtheria patient was the cause. Doubt is sometimes expressed as to whether scarlet fever patients who are diphtheria carriers, and convalescent diphtheria patients, are potential sources of danger, and details of these cases may therefore be of interest.

A girl of 13 was discharged from the scarlet fever ward on February 3rd. Diphtheria bacilli were found to be present in the nose, and she was not cleared for school. Inadvertently, however, she was admitted, and the girl next to her failed with diphtheria on February 25th. A swab taken from the convalescent patient's nose on February 27th showed that the infection was still present.

Another girl of 13 was discharged from the scarlet fever ward on February 3rd at the parents' request, although swabs from the nose gave positive results. Nurse Reese took a swab on February 27th, and a similar result was obtained. Her cousin in the same house failed with diphtheria on March 19th, and her mother with scarlet fever and diphtheria on March 16th.

A boy of 10 returned home from the scarlet fever ward on June 2nd. He had a discharging ear, but this was not examined bacteriologically; swabs from throat and nose gave negative results. His brother was attacked with diphtheria on June 13th, and a swab from the convalescent's ear showed the presence of diphtheria bacilli. The nose also gave a positive result on that day.



A boy of 10, who had suffered with nasal diphtheria, was discharged from hospital on March 4th. A swab from the nose, taken on March 6th, yielded a positive result. The parents at that time would not let him return to hospital, and his mother failed with diphtheria on March 18th. He accompanied his mother to the hospital.

These known instances probably do not represent all the attacks of diphtheria contracted from convalescent patients. Strict isolation cannot be enforced, and carriers were known to roam freely. It is probable that some of the outbreaks during the year were due directly or indirectly to this source of infection, and the desirability of excluding children from school, so long as any suspicion of infection remains, is obvious.

**Antitoxin.**—Serum was supplied to seven medical practitioners. In all the number of units amounted to 159,000.

### **Encephalitis Lethargica.**

The patient lived in Essex, and was attacked by an obscure disease with nervous symptoms in the middle of April. She came to Reigate on June 18th to stay with relations, and died on the 26th. There appeared to be little doubt as to the correctness of the diagnosis.

### **Paratyphoid Fever.**

The patient was admitted to the East Surrey Hospital in May for diagnosis. The blood gave a definite reaction to the "B" bacillus. The source of infection was not determined.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**

No notification was received during the year.

### **Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.**

No case of puerperal fever was notified. The two notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received in December. One patient was removed to the Infirmary; there had been twins, and labour had been induced. The second was an unmarried woman, who had made no preparations for her confinement. She was removed to the East Surrey Hospital.



### Pneumonia.

Only 9 cases were notified. Visits were paid to working-class dwellings to ascertain if any nursing assistance was required.

### Tuberculosis.

Table II includes all cases notified for the first time; also three cases of tuberculosis of the lungs who were newcomers, and had been notified elsewhere; and three cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and two of other organs, who died without having been notified previously. In one instance the condition was only discovered at an autopsy ordered by the Coroner, and in one it was found only at an operation for intestinal obstruction.

A circular letter was sent to medical practitioners during the year, calling their attention to the fact that a few deaths from tuberculosis are recorded annually, which have not been notified.

At the end of the year there remained on the register 147 cases of pulmonary and 54 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, corresponding figures for 1929 being 137 and 48.

The organs involved in the non-pulmonary cases were the glands of the neck (2), abdomen (5), meninges (2), spine (2), hip (1), and generalised (1). The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 5 out of 17.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Sec. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TABLE II.

<i>Age Periods</i>	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Non- Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Non- Pulmonary</i> M.	F.
0 ... ..								
1 ... ..			1	1				
5 ... ..		1	1	4				
10 ... ..		2		1				
15 ... ..		1		1				
20 ... ..	3	5	1					
25 ... ..		4	1					
35 ... ..	1	1		1				
45 ... ..	3	1						
55 ... ..		1						
65 & upwards ...	1	1		1				
Totals ... ..	8	17	4	9	4	6	2	5

## **2. The Non-notifiable Diseases.**

Mumps was the only non-notifiable disease prevalent during the year. The outbreak occurred chiefly in January, February and March. There were 50 children excluded from the public elementary schools on account of whooping cough, but only 5 from measles and German measles. There were no deaths from any of these diseases.

### **Bacteriological Work.**

The bacteriological examination of specimens for medical practitioners in connection with infectious disease is carried out by the Pathologist at the East Surrey Hospital. Specimens can also be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London. Nine hundred and eighteen swabs were examined for the presence of the diphtheria bacillus. Of these 299 were from suspected cases with 63 positive results ; 202 from contacts with 35 positive results ; 207 from convalescent diphtheria patients with 57 positive results ; and 210 from convalescent scarlet fever patients with 36 positive results.

Nine specimens of sputum were examined for the tubercle bacillus with 1 positive result. Three specimens of blood were examined for the Widal reaction. One yielded a positive result to the paratyphoid bacillus. A specimen of spinal fluid yielded no evidence of the presence of the meningococcus.

Hairs from a case of suspected ringworm were examined on one occasion, the fungus being reported as absent.

“ **Schick** ” and “ **Dick** ” tests for diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively were not employed during the year.

### **Disinfection.**

The disinfection of textile articles is carried out at the Corporation's station, where facilities are also available for the cleansing of verminous persons. These facilities were not made use of in 1930.

The disinfection of houses and other premises is carried out by one of the Sanitary Inspector's staff. Particulars of the work done in 1930 are given in his report.

## SECTION VII.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

#### Health Centre.

Except during the month of August, and at Easter and Christmas, consultations were held each Tuesday and Thursday during the year, a doctor being in attendance each day. On the 84 days when the consultations took place the attendances of infants amounted to 4,124 as against 4,253 in 1929. Of the 4,124 attendances 2,569 were those of infants below the age of twelve months.

There were 279 attendances of expectant mothers at the infant consultations.

There are needlework classes and a dental club at the Centre. At the needlework classes 301 attendances were made by 35 mothers. These classes are held on alternate Mondays, and "Health Talks" are given by the Health Visitor. Questions are set, which the mothers answer at home, and the written answers are corrected and criticised at the next class.

A "minor ailments" clinic is held in the mornings for dealing with cases of impetigo, sores, etc., needing dressings, occurring in children under 5, in conjunction with the corresponding clinic of the School Medical Service. Sixteen attendances were made during the year.

#### Antenatal Clinic.

During the year twelve sessions were held, at which 76 individual expectant mothers attended. The total attendances were 137. The corresponding figures in 1929 were 67 and 118 respectively. These Clinics were begun in 1923, the figures for that year being 25 individual mothers and 36 attendances.

#### Domiciliary Visits.

Three hundred primary, and 1,695 subsequent visits were paid by the Health Visitors to infants under the age of twelve months, and 1,204 visits to infants between the ages of 1 and 5. Fifty primary, and 119 subsequent visits were paid to expectant mothers during the year. There were 679 visits of a miscellaneous character, in addition to 46 to cases of mumps, 77 to cases of whooping cough, 1 to a case of pneumonia, 6 to cases of chicken-



pox, 3 to cases of puerperal fever or puerperal pyrexia, 1 to a case of measles, 3 to cases of scarlet fever, and 1 to a case of erysipelas.

The work of the Department has been difficult, owing to the prolonged illness, and subsequent resignation of Miss Tassell, the Second Health Visitor. Temporary appointments were made, and each locum tenens performed her duties efficiently. There were, however, times when Mrs. Gilders had to work single-handed, and the domiciliary visiting was somewhat curtailed.

### **South Park Weighing Centre.**

The Centre was open on 46 occasions, 1,476 attendances being made by individual infants, as against 1,561 in 1929. The number of individual infants attending was 135 as compared with 119 in 1929.

Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this parish, paid 27 primary, and 140 subsequent visits to infants under the age of 12 months; 478 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5; 37 primary, and 88 subsequent visits to expectant mothers. Other visits were 31 to cases of whooping-cough, 4 to cases of measles, 7 to cases of chicken-pox, and 2 to cases of mumps. Domiciliary visits of all kinds were 821, as compared with 751 in 1929.

The Centre is managed by a voluntary Committee, and their area includes a small portion of the adjoining parishes of Reigate Rural District. The Corporation contribute £25 a year towards their expenses, and in recognition of the useful domiciliary work carried out by Nurse Banks.

The population of this parish has increased materially in the last few years, owing to the erection of cottages by the Council, and a corresponding increase has taken place in the Child Welfare work undertaken by Nurse Banks.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

The death shown in the table on page 11 occurred in the fourth month of pregnancy, and was due to displacement of the womb with consequent retention and uraemia. No special enquiry was indicated.

### **Maternity Home.**

There was only a moderate demand for accommodation at the Surrey County Nursing Association's Home. The Borough Council agreed to contribute to the expenses of maintenance in four instances.

### **Provision of Milk.**

This is undertaken to a limited extent, and only in necessitous cases, by the Voluntary Committee. Forty-nine mothers were so provided.

### **Home Helps.**

Assistance was given to 17 mothers by the Voluntary Committee.

### **Birth Notification.**

Of the 443 registered births (gross), 421 were duly notified, or 95.0 per cent.

Among the 22 unnotified births 1 occurred in a private nursing home, 3 in the Maternity Home of the Surrey County Nursing Association, 5 in the Infirmary, and 3 in large residences. Eight of the mothers came into the Borough from outside districts, and the births may have been notified in those areas. One of the Borough births was notified in error to the County Council.

Actually 432 births were notified during the year: 129 by doctors, 120 by doctors and nurses, and 133 by midwives and nurses.

### **Still Births.**

Sixteen notifications were received, 11 males and 5 females. They were derived from doctors in 6 instances, from doctors and nurses in 7 instances, and from nurses or midwives in 3 instances. Four of the mothers were not Borough residents.

Eight cases were visited. In two instances there appeared to be a contracted pelvis; in two, shocks or falls during pregnancy; in one there was prolonged labour with a large baby; in one (twins) there was injury during birth; in the remainder there was no obvious cause.

The nett still-births accredited by the Registrar-General were 12, 8 being males and 4 females.

### **Midwifery Provision.**

The Council paid the agreed subsidy in connection with 63 midwifery and 92 maternity nursing cases.

## Nursing.

By arrangement with the Council, the staff of the District Nursing Association paid 5 nursing visits to a case of pneumonia.

## Dental Treatment.

The collection of subscriptions towards extractions and provision of dentures is managed by the Voluntary Workers through a provident club at the Health Centre. The Council agreed to contribute towards the cost in eight instances.

In addition, the Voluntary Committee assist out of their funds mothers belonging to the Club whose fees are £1 or less, or who require fillings or a few extractions only. The scale of assistance is :—

1d.	in the shilling for a charge up to 10/-.
2d.	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £1.
3d.	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £1 and over.

Assistance out of these funds was given in respect of an infant.

## Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1924.

Administration of Section 41 of this Act, so far as it refers to orphans under the age of 5, was delegated to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. No action was necessary during the year.

## Competitions.

(1) **The Rhonnda Shield Essay.**—Nine mothers entered for this Competition, but none of the essays were considered to be of a sufficiently high standard to be forwarded to London.

(2) **Non-competitive Competition of Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres.** Seven mothers entered. Two Advanced and two Elementary Certificates were obtained. Prizes were given to the successful candidates from the Voluntary Fund.

(3) **Knitting.**—Three prizes were awarded from the Voluntary Fund.



### **Accommodation at the Health Centre.**

The lack of space in the house used as a Health Centre and School Clinic, was referred to last year. Amended plans for the new building were approved by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education. A tender for £8,674 11s. 6d. was accepted, and application to borrow £10,000 was granted. The work was begun before the end of the year.

The popularity of the work at the Centre, and the favourable results obtained, are largely due to the devoted and continuous attention given by the ladies who are good enough to serve as Voluntary Workers. In addition to the other grants and prizes from the Voluntary Fund, referred to elsewhere, four mothers and their infants received help towards holidays at the seaside.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

for the year 1930.

---

Sanitary Department,  
Municipal Buildings,  
REIGATE.

*March 17th, 1931.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my Thirty-fourth Annual Report, and in doing so again desire to express my appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration I have received at your hands.

I again desire to express my deep indebtedness to the Medical Officer of Health for his help, and my profound regret that he is severing his official connection with the Borough. During the 25 years it has been my privilege to work with Dr. Porter, there has never been the slightest misunderstanding between us on any matter. Co-operation of this character is of incalculable advantage in the administration and efficiency of the Department. I sincerely hope his lightened duties will improve his health, and I shall look back on my years of association with him with the greatest possible happiness.

With regard to the outside Staff, I cannot speak too highly of their loyal and painstaking work. They have never considered

any work too heavy that would bring credit to the Department. Unfortunately there have been changes in the clerical staff, which have considerably hampered progress.

In order that more time might be given to the inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, an additional Inspector was appointed, and took up his duties on 1st August.

I also have to acknowledge with appreciation the kind co-operation of the other Borough Officials, and to express my regret at the loss of my old friend and colleague, Mr. F. T. Clayton, who, at all times, gave me all the help that lay in his power. I also appreciate the assistance and co-operation of the County Food and Drugs Inspector, the officials of the County Veterinary Department, and my colleague, Mr. F. E. Traviss, the Sanitary Surveyor of the Reigate Rural District Council, in our efforts to improve the purity and cleanliness of the milk supply.

Mr. R. H. Thompson, the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has on many occasions given me help, which I desire to acknowledge with appreciation.

My thanks are also due to the Matron of the East Surrey Hospital for her kindness in arranging for the sterilizing of the outfits used for taking samples of milk for bacteriological examination.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. HUMPHERY,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



## Infectious Illness.

At 19 houses invaded by infectious illness the laundry work was not done on the premises. The persons who had been doing the laundry work were immediately notified, and not allowed to receive any more until disinfection had been carried out.

Where cases have been treated at home, the premises have been frequently visited to ensure of isolation being practised, and each week, where it has been desirable, the laundry work has been steeped in disinfectants by one of the staff before being sent to be washed; 1,007 articles have been dealt with in this way.

The flushing of drains of infected premises (which during the year numbered 214) is also undertaken by the Department, so that thorough cleansing has been ensured, which is impossible when disinfectants are given to the tenants.

Notices have been issued to the School Medical Officer and the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, informing them of all infected houses, and requesting them to exclude children from such until further notified. After disinfection is completed, and a suitable interval has elapsed, they have been advised thereof. If the members of the family are found to be engaged in any business bringing them into close contact with a number of people or foodstuffs, their employers are at once notified, and every precaution taken at once to stop, through contact, the spread of the disease.

Of the 306 rooms disinfected, 18 were in consequence of Consumption, 88 of Diphtheria, 151 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Typhoid Fever, and 32 of miscellaneous diseases. Disinfection was also carried out at 10 Public Institutions.

Bedding, clothing, etc., that requires disinfection by steam or special fumigation, is removed by the Staff, under my supervision, to the Disinfecting Station. Until June, 1929, the removal of infected articles, etc., was done by a horse-drawn vehicle under contract. Since that time it has been done by a motor vehicle purchased specially for the purpose by the Council, and driven by one of my staff. When mattresses and palliasses have to be treated, all the leather tufts are taken off and destroyed, and new tufts put on before the articles are returned to their respective owners.

One thousand and seventy-one visits have been paid to houses in connection with infectious illness.

During the year under review 5,801 articles, in 319 lots, were removed for disinfection from houses in the Borough, and the following is a summary of them :—

Beds	...	...	...	...	101
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	442
Palliasses	...	...	...	...	41
Bolsters	...	...	...	...	274
Pillows	...	...	...	...	894
Sheets	...	...	...	...	315
Blankets	...	...	...	...	904
Quilts	...	...	...	...	115
Counterpanes	...	...	...	...	127
Carpets	...	...	...	...	41
Rugs	...	...	...	...	48
Cushions	...	...	...	...	125
Toilet Covers	...	...	...	...	168
Towels	...	...	...	...	101
Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	...	1,347
Curtains	...	...	...	...	174
Mats	...	...	...	...	253
Miscellaneous pieces	...	...	...	...	329
					<hr/>
					5,799
					<hr/>

In addition to the above, by arrangement with the Reigate Rural District Council, the disinfection of articles removed from houses in that area has been carried out at our Disinfecting Station at an agreed charge of 7s. 6d. for each lot received. This work was commenced on 8th August, 1929, and during the year 169 lots have been dealt with, comprising 2,989 articles.

The following disinfection has also been carried out :—

Borough Police, and St. John Ambulances	6 times.
Hackney Carriages	...
Dormitories	...
Hospital Wards	...
For the Fullers Earth Union	...

## Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

I have again to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the butchers in carrying out the above Regulations. The satisfactory work reported in previous years has been continued.

The following are the details of the animals slaughtered and the action taken:—

Eight Cows, 731 Steers and Heifers, 435 Calves, 2,833 Sheep and Lambs and 2,574 Pigs. Total, 6,581.

The following animals were surrendered and destroyed:—

2 Pigs	...	...	...	Swine Erysipelas
1 Pig	...	...	...	Suffocation
1 Ox Forequarters	...	...	...	Tuberculosis
1 Ox Hindquarters	...	...	...	„

In addition, the following livers and internal organs, etc. were also surrendered and destroyed:—

Ox livers	...	...	...	...	19
„ heads	...	...	...	...	11
„ lungs	...	...	...	...	10
„ tongues	...	...	...	...	7
Sheeps' livers	...	...	...	...	10
Pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	4
„ heads	...	...	...	...	28
„ plucks	...	...	...	...	10
Calf's liver	...	...	...	...	1
„ lungs	...	...	...	...	1

Almost all the inspections were made after the recognised office hours, as the slaughtering in this Borough is generally conducted in the late afternoon and evening.

An additional slaughterhouse having been licensed, there are now 13 in all, 12 of which are registered and 1 licensed from year to year.

The vehicles used by the butchers are kept exclusively for the purpose of carrying meat, and are closed. Generally speaking they receive attention with regard to cleanliness.

There are no meat stalls within the Borough.

## Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

During the year three cows have been notified as being affected with tuberculosis. One was notified by the County Veterinary Officer after routine examination at the Farm, and post mortem



examination revealed that the disease was "advanced." Two were notified by a Veterinary Surgeon in private practice, after he had submitted samples of milk for examination, which proved the presence of tubercle bacilli. On post mortem examination both animals were found to be affected with tuberculosis of the udder only.

Three cows were reported as possibly suffering from tuberculosis, but the Veterinary Officer was of the opinion that they could not be dealt with under the Order. As the animals were in a dying condition, they were slaughtered on the instructions of the owners, and post mortem examinations were made. One cow was found to be affected by a condition known as Lymphadenoma, and the other two were suffering from Johne's disease.

Two cowsheds and 6 stalls, from which the animals were removed were disinfected by the Disinfecting Officer.

### **Food Supply.**

Under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1925, 77 inspections have been made of the shops where food supplies are stored and sold.

The Register now compiled includes the following businesses :

Grocers, etc. ... ..	66
Butchers, etc. ... ..	30
Fruiterers and Greengrocers ... ..	24
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers ... ..	21
Confectioners (where ice cream is sold) ...	23
Restaurants, Cafes, etc. (includes 18 ice cream premises) ... ..	26

Generally speaking, the food is stored and handled under cleanly conditions, and in several cases alterations have been carried out in order to improve conditions, such as cleansing of storage accommodation, provision of lavatory basins for the use of employees, and improvements in drainage.

Tradesmen show willingness to comply with requirements which may be made under this Section ; but unfortunately the powers given are somewhat restricted, as they do not apply to premises which are controlled by the Factory & Workshop Act.

Power is given under Section 79 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, for regulating the manufacture of ice cream, and during the year under review 21 premises have been inspected.

The following articles of food have been surrendered and destroyed (these figures are exclusive of those mentioned under the "Meat Regulations") :—

Beef ... ..	257 lbs.
Corned Beef ... ..	1 case
Tinned Ox-tails ... ..	1 „
„ Dressed Crab ... ..	1 „
„ Fruit ... ..	1 „
„ Milk ... ..	6 cases
Raisins ... ..	4 boxes
Salad Dressing ... ..	6 bottles

**Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.**

Mr. G. Janes and I were appointed Officers under the above Act in November, to give us statutory power to make the necessary inspections, and enforce the provisions of the various orders made by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In the past these inspections have been made, and I have to express my appreciation of the co-operation of the traders concerned, but the tendency of late is to increase very considerably the number of Orders, and this seems to me to call for the appointments named ; more particularly in view of the suggestion of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, that officers should cause notices to be sent to traders, explaining the requirements of the Orders.

**Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.**

(Ed. Hinks, Esq., B.SC., F.I.C., Public Analyst.)

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.			
Baking Powder	...	4	...	...	4	4	...
Butter ... ..	...	6	...	6	12	12	...
Margarine ... ..	...	...	...	6	6	6	...
Coffee Extract	...	...	...	4	4	4	...
Tea ... ..	...	...	...	6	6	6	...
Milk (Tinned)	...	6	...	...	6	6	...
Sauce ... ..	...	...	...	5	15	5	...
Milk ... ..	6	...	6	19	31	28	3
Cream ... ..	...	...	6	...	6	6	...
Sugar ... ..	9	...	...	6	15	15	...
Self-Raising Flour ... ..	...	5	...	...	5	5	...
Vinegar ... ..	...	...	6	...	6	6	...
TOTAL ...	15	21	18	52	106	103	3

Of the three milk samples adversely reported on, the first contained 8 per cent. added water, with 4 per cent. abstraction of fat. It was discovered on investigation at the retailer's dairy that the evening milk on arrival was put into a faulty churn, which was then placed in a tub of water for coolness pending sale the next morning. Adulteration occurred if the level of the water was above that of the milk. As the Vendor had only recently taken charge of the business after her husband's death, proceedings were not instituted in this case, but a severe caution was given.

In the second sample the deficiency in non-fatty solids corresponded to the presence of 2 per cent. of added water. This was probably genuine milk, and repeat samples of the retailer's milk were satisfactory.

The third sample showed a deficiency corresponding to the abstraction of 3 per cent. of the milk fat. It was found that the wholesaler was at fault, and the case was referred to the County Inspector of that area, with a request that he should take samples in course of transit.

#### **Bakehouses.**

The number now on the Register is 25, 10 being termed workshops, *i.e.*, without mechanical power, and 15 factories, *i.e.*, with mechanical power. All the premises have been cleansed every six months.

#### **The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.**

In accordance with the above Order a Register is kept of all persons carrying on the trade of cowkeeper or dairyman, and of the farms and the premises used as dairies. An additional Register is kept of retail purveyors of milk, as required by the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

There are on the former Register, 41 entries, 12 being cow-keepers.

The Register of retail purveyors contains 43 entries, 10 of which are of persons whose premises are outside the Borough.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell "certified milk" in bottles.

The milk supply of the Borough, apart from that derived from the cowsheds within, comes from the following places:—

Balcombe, Betchworth, Blechingley, Broadbridge Heath, Burstow, Charlwood, Crawley, Horne, Horley, Leigh, Lowfield Heath, Merstham, Newdigate, Norwood Hill, Nutfield, Outwood and Smallfield.



Inspections of cowsheds are made when possible at milking times, and visits are paid to dairies when bottling or other work is in progress. Improvements in the methods of handling milk continue to be made both by producers and retailers, and it is pleasing to note that such has been the co-operation of the Trade in the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order that it has not been necessary to issue a single notice under the Order, to secure even one of the many improvements which have taken place since the Order came into force in 1926.

### **Mosquito Control.**

In my Report for 1929 the following paragraph appeared:—  
“ I am, however, disappointed with the results achieved, as  
“ judging from the observations my staff and I have made, the  
“ hatching of the larvae seems to extend over a considerable  
“ period of the year, and, therefore, to make any appreciable  
“ attack on the hatching, it seems to me that the spraying  
“ needs carrying out almost continuously through the Spring  
“ and Summer, and this of course would involve a heavy  
“ expenditure.”

and I suggested that I should discontinue the spraying and carefully watch the result.

I am pleased to say that I received fewer complaints in 1930 than in any previous year. This of course may be due to weather conditions, or some other scientific reason that I am not competent to speak upon.

### **Knacker's Yard.**

There is a licensed Knacker's Yard at Whitebushes, which has been frequently visited and found to be in a satisfactory state.

### **Gut Scraping.**

There is one Gut Scraping business—the premises adjoin the Knacker's Yard. No complaints have arisen.

### **Verminous Houses.**

Sixteen rooms infested with vermin have been treated with Solution “ D,” this being a spraying preparation for the destruction of vermin.

### **Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.**

The Order of the Board of Agriculture, issued in February, 1912, directing the disinfection of all vehicles removing swine from the markets, has not yet been revoked.

The Order necessitates attendance at the Redhill Market each day until the last pig has been removed, and during the year 400 vehicles have been dealt with under the Order.

### **Bacteriological Examination of Milk.**

In the Medical Officer of Health's report will be found particulars of 108 samples of milk, taken for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

The taking of the samples entailed a considerable amount of work that does not appear on the surface, and particular care involving a special sampling outfit for each sample. The majority were taken between 6 and 8 a.m., on the arrival of the milk in the Borough, and, when obtained, packed in an ice-box and carried immediately to the laboratory in London.

### **Factory and Workshop Act.**

Owing to the changes in occupation that are continually taking place, the keeping of a complete Register of Workshops is a difficult matter, but with the appointment of an additional Inspector it has been possible to get this Register practically complete. 186 visits of inspection were made, and 89 workrooms were measured. Plans of the workrooms have been made, and the cubic contents ascertained. Cards are supplied to hang in the rooms, giving the number of persons that may be employed during the day and overtime. Generally speaking, the premises have been found well kept.

Three lists of outworkers were received affecting three outworkers, *i.e.*, persons who receive from the occupier of any factory or workshop work to be done in their own homes.

It will be observed that a large number of notices issued, as shown in the Medical Officer's report, had not been complied with. This is due to the fact that the inspections were made late in the year, but at the time of writing practically all have been complied with.

The following list gives the number of the various business premises in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act:—

<i>Business.</i>	<i>Factory.</i>	<i>Workshop.</i>	<i>Workplace.</i>
Antique Furniture Repairer ...		1	
Art Leather Worker ...		1	
Art Needleworker ...		1	
Automobile Engineers...	9	7	
Bakers ...	15	10	
Book Binder ...	1		
Boot Makers and Repairers ...	6	11	
Breweries ...	1		
Brick Makers, etc. ...	4	2	2
Builders and Contractors ...	3	15	
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	3	10	
China Glass Rivetter ...		1	
Coach Builders ...		2	
Corn Merchant ...	1		
Cycle Makers ...	3	6	
Dairyman ...	3		
Dressmakers and Milliners ...		13	
Engineers ...	2		
Firewood Works ...	2		
Gas Works ...	1		
Hair and Wig Making...		1	
Jam and Essence Makers ...	1		
Laundries ...	4	10	
Mantle Makers ...		1	
Mineral Water Manufacturers ...	2		
Painters ...		2	
Photographers and Picture Frame Makers ...		6	
Pianoforte Repairers ...		2	
Plumbers ...		6	
Polish Powder Manufacturers ...	1		1
Portable Building do. ...	1	1	1
Printers ...	8	2	
Restaurants ...			18
Robe and Gown Manufacturer ...	1		1
Saddlers ...		6	
Sand Pit ...			2
Seedsman ...	1		
Sheet Metal Workers ...	1	3	
Shellac and Chemical Works ...	1		
Shoeing and General Smiths ...		6	
Shop Fitters ...	1		
Sign Writer ...		1	
Stables ...			7
Stonemasons ...	1	3	
Sugar Boiler ...	1		
Tailors ...		10	
Tanner ...	1		
Tennis Racquet Manufacturer ...	1		
Timber Merchants ...	2	2	3
Tin Plate Workers ...		1	
Umbrella Makers and Repairers...		2	
Undertakers ...	1	3	
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair ...		1	
Watchmakers ...		8	
Wax Refining Works ...	1		
Wheelwrights ...		2	
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>35</b>



The following table gives as nearly as possible the number employed. In considering these figures it should be noted that men employed in building operations and contracting work, such as roadmaking, etc., and drivers and conductors of the East Surrey Traction Co., are not included.

	ADULT EMPLOYEES.		YOUNG PERSONS. (under 18).	
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Factories ... ..	464	369	45	128
Workshops ... ..	324	101	17	28
Work-places ... ..	89	27	—	—
Domestic Workshops	26	3	—	—
Total ... ..	903	500	62	156

**Summary of Complaints received. Total, 204.**

No.	Purport.	Action taken.
79	Insanitary condition of premises ... ..	Investigated and Notices issued.
22	House Drainage ...	Ditto.
31	Non-removal of house refuse ... ..	Referred to Borough Surveyor.
14	Foul accumulations ...	Nuisance removed.
47	Miscellaneous ...	Investigated, and, where possible, action taken.
11	Smells emanating from Sewers and Street Gullies ... ..	Referred to Borough Surveyor.

## Abatement of Nuisances, etc.

The following summary gives some particulars of the amount of work in connection with nuisances and defects dealt with. It is, however, impossible to tabulate a number of minor works of improvement that have been effected, or the number of visits that were made in supervising the carrying out of these improvements :—

Drains examined and tested			
(primary inspections only) ...	...	...	105
Drains relaid ...	...	...	24
Interceptors fixed ...	...	...	11
Drain ventilation improved ...	...	...	12
New W.C. apparatus provided ...	...	...	30
W.C. Apparatus repaired ...	...	...	9
New soil and ventilating pipes fixed ...	...	...	11
Waste pipes trapped or repaired ...	...	...	40
Sanitary dustbins provided ...	...	...	49
Back yards paved or repaired ...	...	...	9
Sinks renewed or repaired ...	...	...	21
W.C. flushing cisterns fixed or repaired ...	...	...	17
New Lavatory Basins fixed ...	...	...	7
Blocked drains cleared ...	...	...	13
Leaky roofs repaired ...	...	...	48
Eaves gutters and stack-pipes repaired ...	...	...	8
Water supply improved ...	...	...	4
Ventilation and Light of Rooms improved			10
Rooms cleansed ...	...	...	196
Ceilings cleansed ...	...	...	38
W.C. Chambers cleansed ...	...	...	12
Accumulations removed ...	...	...	23
Dampness remedied ...	...	...	31
Overcrowding suppressed ...	...	...	4
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired ...	...	...	41
Fireplaces or coppers repaired ...	...	...	33
Window-frames or sash-cords repaired ...	...	...	59
Floors repaired ...	...	...	58
Cesspools abolished or cleansed ...	...	...	4
Urinals cleansed ...	...	...	1
Nuisances—animals improperly kept ...	...	...	4
Ashpits abolished ...	...	...	5
Cellars cleansed ...	...	...	2
Manure receptacles renewed, or repaired ...	...	...	10

## Notices Issued.

	<i>No. issued.</i>	<i>Com- plied with.</i>	<i>Out- stand- ing.</i>
(a) Preliminary Notices ... ..	243	134	109
(b) Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875	9	8	1
(c) „ 91, „ „ „ „ „ ...	50	38	12

- (a) Calling attention to conditions found on inspection.  
 (b) To provide "sufficient" closets and ashpits.  
 (c) To abate nuisances of various sorts.

### Public Mortuary.

During the year there have been 16 bodies deposited in the Public Mortuary for the following purposes:—

Post Mortem examination and Inquest 11, Inquest 3, and Convenience 2.

### Stable Premises.

During the year the Register of Stable Premises has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. There are now 74 such premises on the Register, and generally speaking they have been well kept. Two hundred and eighteen visits of inspection have been paid during the year.

### Housing Inspections.

Two hundred and twenty-four houses were inspected. Of these, 158 were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 66 were wholly or partially inspected for some special reason.

As soon as inspection is complete, a preliminary notice is sent to the owner calling his attention to the defects discovered. If this is disregarded, or the requirements named therein are only partly complied with, the circumstances are reported to the Sanitary Committee, and a statutory notice is issued. If this is not complied with, the facts are again reported to the Committee, and legal proceedings ordered.



An enormous amount of time is absorbed in interviewing owners and persuading them to carry out the work without resort to legal proceedings, and in addition rapid progress is very considerably hindered by the majority of the small houses being on combined systems of drainage, and the consequent difficulty of getting the various owners to agree to do the work.

The particulars obtained and recorded of each house inspected under the Regulations contains *inter alia* a block plan (to scale) of the house and drainage system, aspect, soil, ventilation round premises, size of room, window area in relation to floor space, ventilation of rooms, number of occupants, conditions as to cleanliness, details of all sanitary fittings, state of walls and roof, dampness, conditions of yard and outbuildings, result of the test applied to the drains, and particulars of works of amendment ordered and carried out.

The following table gives some particulars of the conditions found on inspection under the above-mentioned Regulations. The houses referred to are working-class dwellings, and are situate in Cromwell Road (38), Earlsbrook Road (41), Feldwick Place (13), Garlands Road (6), Grove Road (13), Market Field Road (21), Market Row (5), Nutley Lane (4), Yorke Road (4), and Whitepost Hill (3).

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	158
Rooms measured	...	...	...	...	461
Rooms without fireplaces	...	...	...	...	24
Houses occupied by one family	...	...	...	...	91
"          "          " two families	...	...	...	...	42
"          "          " one family and lodgers	...	...	...	...	25
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	6
Houses supplied direct from public main	...	...	...	...	158
"          "          "          " wells	...	...	...	...	—
Improper water closet	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation of Water Closets...	{	Good	...	142	
		Fair	...	14	
		Bad	...	2	
Light of Water Closets	{	Good	...	140	
		Fair	...	14	
		Bad	...	4	
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	20
Untrapped waste pipes	...	...	...	...	39

Dampness by	...	...	{ Roof	...	11
			{ Windows	...	4
			{ Dampcourse...	20	
			{ Drift	...	18
Yard Paving and Drainage	...		{ Good	...	131
			{ Fair	...	12
			{ Bad	...	15
Outbuildings ( <i>i.e.</i> , sheds, etc. in back yards)				...	46
Improper dustbins	...	...	...	...	29
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	3
Air circulation round houses			{ Good	...	144
			{ Fair	...	14
			{ Bad	...	Nil
Defective eaves gutters and stack pipes				...	6
Cleanliness of premises for which owner is responsible			{ Good	...	143
			{ Fair	...	6
			{ Bad	...	9
Cleanliness of premises for which occupier is responsible			{ Good	...	144
			{ Fair	...	6
			{ Bad	...	8

The above figures include re-inspections of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations.

I should like to emphasise the observations of the Medical Officer of Health, with respect to housing; particularly with regard to the problem that is no new one, *i.e.*, the difficulty of providing proper housing conditions at economic rents for families, the breadwinners of which, owing to mental or physical infirmities, are unable to obtain employment that will bring an income of even £2 a week. It is generally this type that have large families.

### Legal Proceedings.

On the 13th November, 1930, the owner of 9 and 11, Grove Road, Redhill, was summoned on an information laid by the Town Clerk, for re-letting the houses on which a Closing Order had become operative. A conviction was recorded in each case, the owner being fined £10 and £2 12s. 0d. costs.